

Lieutenant Governor Ken Ard - Office on Aging

The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging administers federal funds received through the Older Americans Act and the State of South Carolina. These funds are distributed to ten regional Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)/Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) who then contract with local providers for services such as: home delivered and congregate meals, transportation, home care services, social adult day care services, respite and disease prevention/health promotion. Staff is also available to present informative educational programs to groups or staff of other agencies.

Services such as information and referral, family caregiver support, Long Term Care ombudsman, education and training, legal service, disaster planning and insurance counseling are provided at each of the ADRCs.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) provide a single, coordinated system of information and access for seniors, caregivers and adults with disabilities seeking long term care by minimizing confusion, enhancing individual choice, and supporting informed decision-making. ADRCs make it easier for consumers to learn about and access existing services and supports that are available in their communities.

Information, Referral, and Assistance (I/R&A) - SC Access, www.scaccesshelp.org, is an Internet based information resource designed to assist seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers locate a variety of services in their area and provides educational material on numerous issues. Ten regional Information and Referral Specialists, located at the ADRCs, provide personal assistance by phone or in person.

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) provides services to help the caregiver with information, planning, problem solving, caregiver training, support groups, finding ways to take a break from caregiving (respite) and other services designed to make caregiving a little easier, less stressful and more rewarding. The FCSP helps unpaid family caregivers of adults age 60 and over; caregivers of adults with Alzheimer's disease; grandparents (55 or older) raising a grandchild under 19; and grandparents caring for an adult grandchild with a disability.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) or I-CARE (Insurance Counseling and Referral for Elders) assists seniors and adults with disabilities in accessing health insurance coverage, including Medicaid and Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, the prescription drug program.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program investigates complaints and advocates for residents' rights in nursing homes, assisted living and residential care facilities as well as facilities operated or contracted for operation by the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) or the Department of Mental Health (DMH). The **Friendly Visitor Program** recruits and trains volunteers to visit residents in facilities.

Legal Services may be available, (first come, first serve basis), for seniors who need legal assistance for NON-CRIMINAL situations including issues such as: Income Protection (bankruptcy, appeal denials of pension, etc.); Health Care (appeal disability or Medicare/Medicaid denial); Long Term Care (facility involuntary transfer, inappropriate discharge); Nutrition (if benefits denied and a legal appeal is required); Housing (eviction or discrimination issues); Protected Services (conservatorships); Guardianship (defending you from guardianship or ensuring the least restrictive guardianship); or Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation.



Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services is a program for veterans (of any age) at high risk of nursing home placement who wish to remain at home and are willing to participate in directing their care. Participants in the program are assessed for needed services and supports, a service plan and budget is developed, and assistance is given in selecting providers, purchasing services and directing their care. The pilot is in the Trident Region (*Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester* counties) with statewide implementation being the ultimate goal.



A scheme or scam may be defined as any deception, pretense, false statement, false promise or misrepresentation made by a seller or advertiser of merchandise. Concealment, suppression, or failure to disclose a material fact may also be considered consumer fraud in certain instances. Merchandise is broadly defined to include any objects, wares, goods, commodities, real estate or services. To report a scheme or scam against a senior, please contact our office.



Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) provides statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. The ARCC also provides technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers and provides seed money to local communities to develop or strengthen programs or services to serve people with dementia and their caregivers.



Medicaid Eform is available online at www.scaccesshelp.org for **Medicaid Long Term Care** (Medicaid-eligible individuals interested in receiving services in their homes or those needing nursing home placement).



Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program provides funds to assist physicians in repaying student loans. In return, they agree to remain in South Carolina for five years and care for the state's ever increasing senior population.



ElderCare Trust Fund consists of monies received from a voluntary state income tax check-off. These funds are used to award seed grants to public and private nonprofit agencies and organizations to establish and administer innovative programs and activities that assist older South Carolinians to live with dignity and vitality in their communities.



Permanent Improvement Program (PIP) provides grants for permanent improvements of Senior Centers or the portion of the facility used for aging services. Grant proposals must provide evidence of need for proposed projects in the community and some match is required.



The **Better Choices Better Health** program uses a tested and proven method of helping people manage their chronic conditions and was developed by medical researchers at Stanford University. Small groups of classes are held once a week for 2 1/2 hours over a six week period. By attending all six classes, participants gain the knowledge and skills needed to help them live a healthier life.



The **A Matter of Balance Program** has also been proven to reduce the fear of falling in older adults. This fall prevention class is held twice a week for four weeks. Class locations can be found on the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging website.